

EWRT1A-09 Essay 2- Identity and Conformity

Write an essay on **one** of the prompts below. The essay should be 3-4 pages, typed, double-spaced, and in accordance with the MLA guidelines (see *Easy Writer*). The prompts require you to use at least **two** of the essays we've read in the class and at least one must be from the "Identity" section (from Walker through Thoreau). Cite the essays you refer to and be sure to provide a works cited list.

1. In a world with competing responsibilities and messages it can be difficult to hear one's own voice, much less make that voice heard. Looking at the essays we have read, what does it take for a person to develop his/her own voice? In other words, what asset(s) does a person need to find his/her true identity and express it? Use at least two readings from the class to support your argument. You may focus on one asset or a few. However many you choose, the assets should be shared by *all* the readings you discuss. Find links between the texts in answering this prompt.

2. In many cases, people feel that they have a unique identity, but that they can't express that identity. Various pressures keep people from being true to themselves. Looking at the essays we have read, what are the obstacles to having an identity? Use at least two readings from the class to support your argument. You may focus on one obstacle or a few. However many you choose, look for obstacles that *all* the texts you discuss share. In your essay, show this connection.

3. All the essays in this section deal with individuality versus conformity. From what you have read, what are the dangers of conformity? What negative effects does it have? You can focus on just one effect or a few. In either case, use at least two readings from the class to support your argument. However many you choose, the effects should be shared by *all* the readings you discuss. Find links between the texts in answering this prompt.

This essay is about synthesis. I am looking for a thesis statement that answers the prompt by showing a connection (or connections) between two or more texts from the reader. Show a common thread (or threads) that weave through the readings. Your essay should make this thread (or threads) visible. Don't simply describe what each author says, but instead explain how each author's idea relates to another's and to your thesis. When quoting, remember the quotation sandwich.

Think about the prompts in terms of the rhetorical modes. You could respond to prompt one by describing a common process that allows people to have an identity. Or you could simply look at various causes that create the effect of unique identity. Prompt two asks you to look at causes for why people can't make their voices heard. And prompt three asks you to look at the effects of conformity. In terms of rhetorical modes, you will be engaged in process analysis or cause and effect. Use this to help give you greater focus in your writing.

Remember that a first draft and a final draft are required.

first draft due February 22
final draft due February 29